

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINGST 02820 251607Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00
STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 IO-13 /099 W
-----130708 251612Z /41

O R 251500Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0392

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

S E C R E T KINGSTON 2820

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, JM, VE, EGEN, CU, PORC

SUBJECT: NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE: VISIT OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT
TO KINGSTON

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 2806

1. JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT OWNED RADIO STATIONS AS WELL AS LOCAL
PRESS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ WOULD VISIT
KINGSTON JUNE 1. TRIP WOULD FOLLOW VISTS BY PEREZ TO CANADA
AND SELECTED EEC COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES.
RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS CLAIMED CANADA AND VENEZUELA HAD
"SAVED" NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AT PARIS WHEN US WAS BEING
DIFFICULT.

2. GIVEN CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER
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MANLEY AND PRESIDENT PEREZ, LATTER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESS
PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THEIR FORTHCOMING TALKS TO AGREE
TO MANLEY'S PROPOSAL FOR A NORTH-SOUTH SUMMIT IN KINGSTON
LATE IN MAY OR EARLY IN JUNE. ALTHOUGH I HAVE DOUBTS
REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF GOING AROUND ESTABLISHED UN AND
OTHER MACHINERY ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, ESPECIALLY SINCE
USG IS NOT READY TO MAKE THOSE SHIFTS IN POLICY WHICH

WOULD SATISFY LDC'S, I HAVE EVEN STRONGER
DOUBTS ABOUT HOLDING SUCH A SUMMIT AT KINGSTON.

3. A MEETING HERE WOULD DIVERT THE COUNTRY'S ENERGIES FROM
CONCENTRATION ON THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS
AT TIME WHEN PUBLIC OPINION HERE IS PUSHING FOR MORE PRACTICAL
AND IMMEDIATE ACTION. (KINGSTON 2806 NOTAL). IT COULD ALSO
BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE FOR USG AIM OF PROMOTING GREATER CARRIBBEAN
AREA COOPERATION. MANLEY IS NOT TOO POPULAR IN THIS REGION
AND OTHERS RESENT WHAT THEY CONSIDER AN UNBALANCED US RELATIONSHIP
WITH JAMAICA AT THEIR EXPENSE. ALSO NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED IS MANLEY'
CONSISTENT AND STRONG DEFENSE OF THE ROLE OF CUBA IN AFRICA
AND HIS STAND ON THE BELIZE - GUATEMALA ISSUE.

4. JAMAICA IS A DEMOCRACY IN VERY SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES
AND DESERVES A LOT OF ATTENTION AND ASSISTANCE. MANLEY CAN INDEED
PLAY A USEFUL AND POSITIVE ROLE IN THIRD WORLD ISSUES AND IT IS
TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE HIM AS A LEADER WITH
INFLUENCE BEYOND JAMAICA. HOWEVER, UNLESS THERE ARE CON-
SIDERATIONS OF WHICH WE AT THIS POST ARE UNAWARE WE SHOULD
STILL LOOK LONG AND HARD BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER WE WANT
TO GIVE MANLEY THE ACCOLADE OF A KINGSTON SUMMIT AT THIS TIME.
IRVING

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